

- A. **Attending:** Carol Lamey & Brenda Evans – Job Service, Cathy Jamruszka, - MSU- Northern Ag. Research Center, Lori Evans – Hill County Electric/Triangle Telephone, Kathy Jaymes – MSU Northern and Val Golden – Office of Public Assistance

B. Agency Updates

a. Job Service

- i. Enhancements to the Montana Works system noting system went on-line on December 8th and there are a few glitches that are being worked out.
- ii. Office has been fairly busy with UI claims. There are two different extensions that the government has approved. Volume of claims for the state are up. Applicants can file either on-line or by phone. Maximum an individual MAY be eligible for their initial claim is 6 months and then additional with extensions.
- iii. Lots of layoffs throughout the state, some may be eligible for TAA/TRA program if the layoffs have been due to foreign trade.
- iv. Training Modules – LMI I– 4 staff have completed, LMI II – 3 staff have completed, Skills Section 1, 2 & 3 – four staff have completed. New trainings will continue to be added.
- v. WIRED - Another welding training will start January 2 through the 16th. If you know of someone interested in taking this course to received 2 different welding certifications have them contact Bev or Brenda.
- vi. FMLA/ADA changes in January – Carol will check with Helena on required posting for the FMLA.
 1. UPDATE – For FMLA, according to USDOL, employers should use their add-on poster as they are still working on updating the poster to reflect the new regulations. The add-on can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmla/NDAAAmndmnts.pdf>.
 2. As far as ADA/Equal Employment is the Law, Job Service 5 in 1 current poster reflects the revisions made to their poster in August of 2008.
- vii. Montana Minimum Wage – is not required to be posted, but poster was provided to those in attendance. It can be found at <http://erd.dli.mt.gov/laborstandard/wagehrlawsstatemin.asp>

b. Office of Public Assistance

- i. SNAP (old Food Stamp program) is going well. The eligibility requirements are not as strict as previous. Outreach has increased
- ii. Due to increase in UI rates have seen caseload for all programs increase. With shared caseload the turnaround for application process is approximately 7 days and previously was 3 to 5 days.
- iii. Chimes computer program for Medicaid will begin testing on system in January and hoping to be up and operational by July of 2009.
- iv. Passage of I55 is expected to increase Medicaid and CHIP applications/recipients.
- v. Office will be fully staffed by 12/22.

c. Hill County Electric/Triangle Telephone

- i. Has Information System Specialist position open. Will do first round of interviews this Friday.
- ii. Attended Web based training on FMLY/ADA changes in January.

d. Northern Ag Research

- i. Research assistant position – interviews will occur next week, have two scientist positions and a livestock operations manager position currently open.
- ii. Long range building plan is being worked on to move the offices into new structures away from the Fort structures.

e. **MSU Northern**

- i. Search for new chancellor has begun with plan to have on board July 1, 2009. Search committee for this will be out of MSU Bozeman. A search firm will be hired for this.
- ii. Career Center Director Terry Lilleveldt has resigned for another position and the search committee will meet today on this position.
- iii. Custodial II position had a lot of applicants apply. The cook/dishwasher position was considered a failed search and with the cafeteria shutting down for the Christmas break will review this position after that time.

C. Committee Report

a. **Seminar** –

- i. State Fund on the series General Prospective, Safety in the Work Place and Rates & Premiums and tentative date will be sometime the week of January 12th with a session in the morning and one in the afternoon. It looks like we will be able to hold at the mall meeting center. Discussion was held on how to advertise – Job Service e-mail listing, press release and About the Town with Havre Daily News, Outlook on the radio stations, Chamber Newsletter and Statue fund will do some advertising ad get information out. It was decided to have the training at no cost as the only cost to us would be for refreshments.
- ii. Jim Nyse webinar seminars. Carol will see if see if JSEC could pay the fees for the seminar and have it open to local employers for a webinar. If this is possible it was decided to have one session during the day and one in the evening and coordinate with the college to hold at the tech. center.

b. **Outreach** – no report

D. Other Items of Interest (suggestions/concerns/open forum) - none

E. Next Brown Bag –Brenda will review list and notify us

F. Next meeting: January 14th at 10:30 a.m. at Job Service